

ORGANIZATION NOTES

THE German Nurses' Association has launched its official journal under the title "Under the Lazarus Cross," with sub-title giving the name of the association, and bearing the insignia of an ancient nursing order now inherited by the new one, a square red cross with triple-headed arms. The journal will appear every two weeks, and will be taken by each member of the association, now counting close to a thousand members.

We congratulate the German nurses most warmly and hopefully on their journal, for it will be an immense help to them in the hard struggle before them in attaining the purpose they have set themselves, of defending the right of women to earn their living in nursing as a secular calling. The German nurses have no easy path before them, and their officers have heavier responsibilities and burdens than those borne by any of our older organizations.

None of us can imagine being suspected of irreligion or heresy because we do not go into religious orders, but in Germany, where the conditions of modern economics are inexorably bursting the bonds of the century-old social systems, women who desire to work under free conditions are brought to the bar to defend themselves and their principles. But the old orders cannot provide enough nurses for Germany, and free conditions of service can and will.

Sister Agnes Karll and her little band,—small in numbers but great in heart and mind,—have our good wishes and warm sympathy.

THE "BOSSES" OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION

It is really enough to make one tear out one's hair by the roots and to despair of womankind to read the recent proceedings of the R. B. N. A. The narrow-gauge men whom these women have been foolish enough to elect as officers, and whose tactics are those of the political "boss" are determined that there shall not be a fair representation of nurses on the Central Board under state legislation. Next month we will give a little more space to this matter.

In this country the accepted principle of state examination is that the persons who train shall not also examine and pass their pupils, but that this shall be done by an impartial body, viz.: the members of the whole profession, whatever it is. But this is too impersonal and democratic for the bosses of the R. B. N. A., hide-bound in traditions of

privilege, and scared to death of nurses forgetting their place and having something to say about their own affairs. It is really a pity that the R. B. N. A. ever changed its mind back again for registration. But the Society for State Registration is still there.

THE nurses of the great French hospitals, according to an open letter addressed to the Director of the department of public charities, in the press of Paris, are a prey to tuberculosis on account of the frightfully insanitary conditions of the way they have to live. The descriptions of the bedrooms and accommodations provided for them reads like an account of the "cells," now abolished, of old Bellevue. It is said that out of 5,000 employees in the department some 3,000 are tubercular,—a hideous record, and stirs up again the old question, What is the sense of making one set of people sick in the pretense of making another set well?

DOCTOR HAMILTON has kindly sent us a copy of the translation of Miss Lücke's book on Hospital Sisters and Their Duties into French. It has been translated by Mme. de Luze, who has published it at her own expense, and has a preface by Dr. Hamilton.

MISS SUSANNAH H. HIGGINS, a graduate of the Philadelphia training-school for nurses, has been appointed missionary nurse at the Elizabeth Bunn Memorial Hospital, Wuchang, China.

DR. J. H. SEQUEIRA has published an elementary treatise on the Light Treatment, for the use of nurses. It is published by the Scientific Press, London.

THE organized nurses of Victoria, Australia, are considering steps for founding a club-house or apartments.